

# First Photographs of U. S. Troops on Aisne Front and in Trenches in Lorraine

## SEC. BAKER BACKS OFFER OF PERSHING TO "GIVE ALL"

By HENRY WALES.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 30.—In a statement issued here this afternoon, Secretary of War Baker said that he was delighted with the prompt action of General Pershing in placing all of the American troops in France at the disposal of the allies. He said he was certain this action would meet with the hearty approval in the United States, where the people desire the expeditionary forces to be of the utmost service in the common cause.

Secretary Baker is anxious to return to the United States and impart the knowledge he gained here to the American Government and people and to confer with President Wilson and the Cabinet regarding the future.

During his visit to the British front, simultaneously with the commencement of the great German drive, Secretary Baker saw actualities—the saddest phases of warfare including the civilian evacuation of Peronne and Bapaume before the enemy troops stormed those places.

At a railroad crossing Mr. Baker, so he told the correspondents, encountered an American made automobile. He thought it was American and questioned the girl driving the machine.

"I am Miss Hackett, and I'm English, not American," answered the young chauffeur adding, "but I fancy it doesn't make much difference so long as we are allies."

Mr. Baker did not state just when he would return to America and whether he was going to Italy first. He reiterated, however, that he was longing to reach Washington and take up various important matters.



Photo by International.

The accompanying photograph is the first received in this country showing our boys on the Aisne front. They had just arrived at a point not far behind the firing line when the camera man snapped them just as they were about to unload supplies from the mule trains in the muddy section to forward them to the front. British and French

officers say that the American lads go about their work of modern warfare preparations with the skill and thoroughness that is worthy of their comrades-in-arms who have been in the field long enough to class them as veterans.



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This photograph shows three of a group of American lads who were snapped as they were waiting for the curtain—which is not an asbestos arrangement—to rise on the Lorraine front. That is the signal for the star act when Americans from all over the country charge over enemy trenches. American troops are more than holding their own; they are holding the enemy.

## Congress What It Did Yesterday

**Billion-Dollar Day at the Capitol—Breaking All Records in One Day's Work—The Bond Bill Passed in the House—The War Finance Bill Agreed On in Conference—Effect of "Taking the Limit Off" in Wartime—Low and High Financing on Contracts—A New "Ironclad Oath" Proposed for Elections—A Commission to Restore Business After Peace—Commandeering Property "Real, Personal, and Mixed"—Mr. Hoover's Fluctuations.**

By W. V. BYARS.

The day's work of the House of Representatives was the most important in its history, and it does not break all records in the political history of the world, no one at the Capitol cared to go any further in record-breaking at the end of the day. It consisted of debating and passing the new bond bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury with the approval of the President, to borrow not exceeding twelve thousand million dollars and to issue therefor bonds of the United States, in addition to the two thousand million dollars in bonds already issued or offered for subscription under the act of April 24, 1917.

If anyone reading this, finds himself in doubt of what it means, he is exactly in the position of everyone who helped pass the bill, after it was done. No one knew or could know the meaning of these vast sums in billions of dollars. It had been decided that it was necessary to vote up to these totals "to win the war." They were voted accordingly. Those whose heads began to ache when they tried to imagine a billion dollars, here and there, were not alone. It cannot be done. Interest in the most remarkable day's work in American political history does not belong to these incomprehensible figures, but to the way it was done. In this, there was something more absorbing than can be put on paper. It was the life in the men with highly trained minds, knowing they were acting wholly beyond their powers, groping in the dark—but going forward, at any rate.

Chairman Kitchin, of the House Ways and Means Committee, who opened for the bill, was treated with the greatest respect on both sides of the House, and especially on the Republican side, as he explained it section by section. The explanation was that the bill authorized an additional bond issue of not quite four and a half billion dollars (\$4,461,000,000), increasing the issues already authorized from seven and a half to twelve billion dollars. With expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1918, estimated at over sixteen billions and receipts at only twelve and a half billions, the deficit was of something over three and a half billions. In addition to this, it was necessary to provide for the allies at the rate of half a billion a month during the rest of the fiscal year and for the quarter ending with next September. This called for a total of a billion and a half. The rest is a matter of making bonds attractive to investors, especially to State banks, by lowering their assessments when holding the bonds, and of what bonds may be exchanged for those carrying four and a quarter per cent interest. On this latter point it is explained that "the four per cent bonds are now convertible into a subsequent issue bearing a higher rate, and the three and a half per cents are also convertible. This proposed four and a quarter bond issue will not be convertible."

When Mr. Kitchin concluded, he announced that he was called to the

conference on the war finance bill, and that the bond bill would be left in charge of Judge Hull of Tennessee. As the "drive" for the new Liberty loan was to begin April 6, the bill ought to pass both houses not later than April 4.

With Mr. Kitchin's disappearance, there was a diversion which involved no opposition to the passage of the bill. Mr. Fordney of Michigan illustrated the habit of counting in billions of dollars as it extends from "highest up to lowest down." He had a bundle of letters and memoranda from Hog Island and elsewhere, illustrating the operations of patriotism on the percentage base and on cost plus contracts. Taken seriously, they would have shown that below the surface corruption inevitably increases to its greatest possible extent as the "limit is off" on expenditures during the war period. As a deeper at \$5 a day for every ten men, though in Mr. Fordney's business, one was enough for 400 men. In another case, the number of foremen was more than half the total of the number of men under them. This recital continued until Democrats protested—though, rather feebly—and Mr. Fordney ended in a splendid patriotic outburst from which it might have been inferred that he was as ready to vote in trillions, if necessary, as in billions—regardless of grafting by both high and low financiers.

This was the general tone of the Republican side. Mr. Fordney had protested against increasing taxes on this generation instead of issuing more bonds. He said the proportion of "fifty-fifty" between bonds and taxation was grossly unfair to a country struggling with the high cost of living. On the Democratic side, Mr. Huddleston, of Alabama, said that while he had voted steadily for all money demanded to carry the war, he thought poorly of the kind of modern civilization which had brought about such a holocaust. This was followed by applause from the galleries, with men in uniform joining in it. He condemned boundless inflation of debt as not only dangerous, but unnecessary, when the Government might raise the cash by proceeding to take it from those who had it in excess of their right to it.

So the House proceeded, with members tiring of billions and dropping out until just before 3 o'clock there were only forty-three present. The debate continued until after sunset, without a point of order of "no quorum," and the bill passed without division.

In addition to the four and a half billion increase in bonds authorized, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to increase certificates of indebtedness outstanding at one time from four to eight billions. And for the total of the day's work

on "Billion Dollar Day" in Congress, add the three and a half billions authorized for the new War Finance Corporation, or "Central War Bank of the United States."

As agreement was reached in conference between the House and Senate, the new "war bank" will have a cash capital of half a billion dollars and a bonded capital of three billions. The membership of the "Capital Issues Committee" is changed from five to seven, who may be all of one party or of no party. No railroad while under Government control can secure more than \$50,000,000 in a single loan; and while under Government control, railroads, though required to give "adequate security" are exempted from the requirement that the security on loans must be 125 per cent. This, however, does not require actual collateral, but may include the estimated value of property on which the loan is made. The interest rate must be so adjusted as not to disturb the business of central reserve banks, and in "exceptional cases" of distress the person or corporation relieved must show that while deserving help, it was not possible to get it from the banks or in ordinary channels. The conference report will probably be made on Monday to the Senate, where the Overman bill will be the regular order. The Senate was not in session yesterday.

The worst of the "bad blood" after the civil war developed over test oaths preventing voters from casting their ballots without swearing to their loyalty. A variation of the test oath to suit the present was proposed in a bill introduced by a member from Oklahoma.

Mr. Dent introduced in the House the bill already introduced in the Senate authorizing the Administration to take over any sort of property "real, personal, or mixed" for war purposes. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee, though it is said to have come from the War Department. Mr. Dent labelled it "by request."

After the war ends "some time" it will be necessary to get business back on a peace basis—of which, if the war lasts long enough, business will be as much afraid as it was of the war basis to begin with. Under the Emerson bill, a commission would be appointed to begin studying out the problem as soon as possible.

Federal judges will be provided with higher salaries and other advantages, if the Carlin bill passes. The Secretary of Agriculture is to proceed with the "voluntary mobilization" of labor, under the Rubey bill, which provides proper safeguards against paying the railroad fares of colored Republicans who are devoting their attention to cotton instead of politics.

Mr. Frank Lyon appeared before the House Committee on Interstate Commerce in the interest of steamer competition for railroads. An interesting fact he disclosed is that violation of law, due to cheap through rates, disappears as soon as railroad and water lines combine and can put the rate high enough.

Mr. E. C. Laxater, of Texas, told the Senate Committee on Agriculture that Mr. Hoover had been guilty of a breach of faith. It consisted of starting out to "stabilize" (or "bull") meat prices, and then undergoing the most distressing fluctuations. The constituents of the Agricultural Committee are earnestly convinced that fair prices on all food products begin high and go higher in becoming fairer. When Mr. Hoover agreed with them they thought him the most eminent living financier, but when he fluctuates they use such words as "conspiracy."

## DISTRICT WOMEN WILL WIELD HOES TO BEAT KAISER

Women of Washington will take up the hoe and the plow this spring on Virginia and Maryland farms to "help halt the Hun."

This innovation was inaugurated at a meeting yesterday in the District building of forty truck farmers and growers of Virginia and Maryland. By a resolution unanimously adopted they agreed to give employment to Washington women and girls, who may apply to till the fields for this season's crops.

Women farm hands will be recruited from the ranks of housewives, school girls and society maidens who heretofore have known the farm only as a hot weather resort. Preliminary training for the workers will be given on an extensive scale at the National Training School on Conduit road.

The women who volunteer for farm work will be quartered in tents, in charge of a woman foreman who will superintend their work and conduct. They will be employed by farmers in groups, receiving their board, lodging and wages. Mrs. F. L. Ransome will have charge of the employment of women for nearby truck growers.

Edward F. Colladay presided at yesterday's meeting of the truck growers.

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## DEATH-SENTENCED SAMMIES GIVEN ANOTHER RESPIRE

A further stay of sentence in the case of the four members of the American expeditionary forces recently given the death penalty after trials by court-martial has been automatically allowed by the action of the Acting Secretary of War in asking for more specific information regarding the charges. The papers in the cases were returned to the judge advocate general.

The fate of the two soldiers sentenced to be shot for murdering a

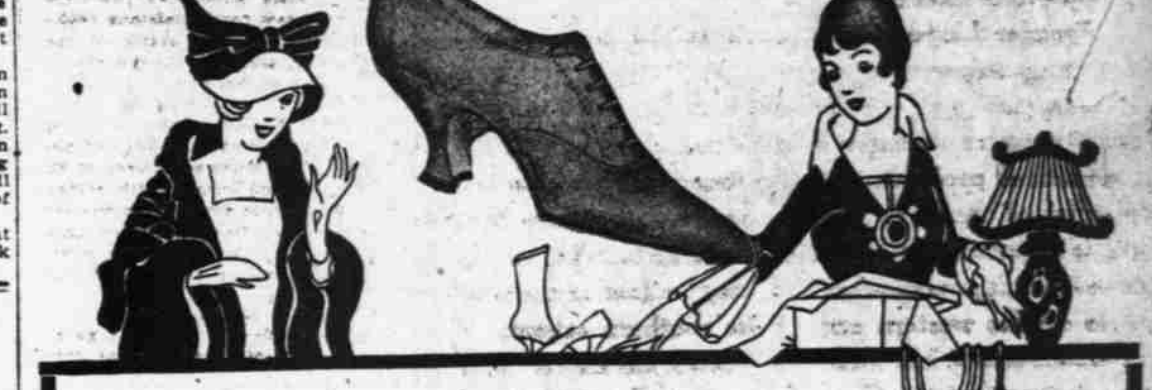
sentry in Texas still rests in the hands of President Wilson. The papers were forwarded to the Acting Secretary of War and the matter referred to the White House for final decision.

Two of the four men sentenced to die in France were convicted of sleeping in a listening post. The other two disobeyed orders of a superior officer. It is understood that General Pershing was asked for additional details in these cases. This action was unofficially interpreted as an indication that Executive clemency is to be granted if mitigating circumstances sufficient to warrant such a course can be found. Commutation to long-term imprisonment is anticipated.

**WELL FIXED.**  
"How are you fixed for coal at your house?"  
"Fine. We've got a couple of shovel-fuls in the bin and the promise of more in a week or two."

## DUTCH SHIPS HELD BECAUSE OFFICERS TOOK SEXTANTS

Operation of the seized Dutch liners has been seriously embarrassed by the taking away by their shippers of the sextants. It was learned at the Navy Department late yesterday afternoon. These instruments are exceedingly hard to obtain, and because of the appearance of the sextants, the personal property of the officers, the sailing of the *Neius Amsterdam*, upon which many of the Dutch officers' boats, was delayed that naval officers might obtain possession of the sextants through sale or lease.



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A few pairs of BOOTS, same material, also in this sale. Also SPRING PUMPS in Patent Leather and Black. Brown, low heel Military Pumps. And balance of those "FOX SAMPLES" of Slippers, Pumps. And Oxfords—values to \$6 and \$7 pair.

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**CRANDALL'S** Apollo, 624 H st. ne. NOW—"THE HART IN 'BLUE BLAZES' HAWKINS."

**CRANDALL'S** AVE. GRAND. E. TODAY—MADGE EVANS in "WANTED A MOTHER." TOMORROW—MAGIE CARSH in "THE BELOVED TRAITOR."

**CRANDALL'S** American 1st & R. I. TODAY—CONSTANCE TALMADGE in "THE STUDIO GIRL." TOMORROW—MELIE BERGUSON in "ROSE OF THE WORLD."

**PLAZA** 424 9th St. N. W. TODAY AND TOMORROW—"THE ZEPPELIN'S LAST RAID."

**LEADER** 507 9th St. N. W. TODAY AND ALL WEEK—"TRIGLIA PEARSON in 'A DAUGHTER OF FRANCE' and 'A DAUGHTER OF FRANCE' and 'A DAUGHTER OF FRANCE'."

**OLYMPIC** TODAY AT 2:45 P. M. MADGE KENNEDY in "OUR LITTLE WIFE."

**STRAND** TODAY AND ALL WEEK—Masterpiece—"THE BLUE SHIRT."

**HOME** 1230 C Street Northeast TODAY—ALICE BRADY in "WOMAN AND WIFE" and BENJAMIN CHAPIN in "TENDER MEMORIES."

**HOME'S** CAROLINA. 5 1/2th & E. Car. Ave. S. E. TODAY—HARRY MURRY in "THE OTHER MAN" and BENJAMIN CHAPIN in "TENDER MEMORIES."

**GARDEN** TODAY AND TOMORROW—"IRVING CASTLE in 'SYLVIA OF THE SECRET SERVICE'."

**CRANDALL'S** Kutchinbocker. 5 1/2th & E. Car. Ave. S. E. TODAY AND TOMORROW—CONSTANCE TALMADGE in "THE SHUTTLE."

**CRANDALL'S** Theater, 9th & E. sts. NOW—DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS in "HEADIN' SOUTH."

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